

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of claims with amendments that replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating a blade for a cutting tool, in particular for a knife, a pair of scissors, a saw, a household appliance, or indeed an industrial tool, the blade ~~[[1]]~~ being made of steel or an alloy of stainless steels and having at least one cutting edge ~~(3, 103)~~ extending over at least a portion of ~~[[its]]~~ a periphery thereof, the method ~~being characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising the following steps:

a) making a blade body ~~(2, 102)~~ possessing at least one free edge ~~(F, 4)~~ provided in ~~[[the]]~~ a vicinity of ~~the location of the~~ or each at least one cutting edge ~~(3, 103)~~;

b) projecting a make-up material ~~(M, M')~~ in the form of a powder ~~(5, 105)~~ onto the at least one free edge ~~(F, 4)~~, the hardness of the make-up material being greater than the hardness of the blade body;

c) subjecting the make-up material powder ~~(5, 105)~~ to a laser beam ~~[[8]]~~ at the same time as projecting the make-up material powder so as to form a bead ~~[[6]]~~ or strip ~~[[109]]~~

on at least a portion of ~~[[said]]~~ the at least one free edge ~~(4,~~  
~~F); and,~~

d) performing a tempering and hardening operation on the  
blade body fitted with a bead or strip of the make-up material;  
and

e) forming the cutting edge ~~(3, 103)~~ in the bead ~~[[6]]~~ or  
strip ~~[[109]]~~ of make-up material ~~(M, M')~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1,  
~~characterized in that said~~ wherein the at least one free edge is  
formed by a flat ~~[[4]]~~ extending perpendicularly to a main  
plane ~~[[P]]~~ of the blade body ~~[[2]]~~.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the blade body ~~(2, 102)~~ presents  
dimensions that are slightly smaller than those of the final  
blade ~~[[1]]~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one cutting edge ~~(3,~~  
~~103)~~ is made by grinding, machining, or abrading at least the

bead ~~[[ (6) ]]~~ or the strip ~~[[ (109) ]]~~ of make-up material ~~(M, M')~~.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the blade body ~~[[ (2) ]]~~ is machined or ground before the step of forming the bead ~~[[ (6) ]]~~ of make-up material.

8-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A blade for a cutting tool, in particular a knife, a pair of scissors, a saw, a household appliance, or an industrial machine, the blade having at least one cutting edge on at least a portion of ~~[[ its ]]~~ a periphery thereof, and being ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ having a blade body ~~(2, 102)~~, the at least one cutting edge ~~(3, 103)~~ being supported on ~~[[ one ]]~~ an edge of ~~[[ said ]]~~ the blade body ~~(2, 102)~~ and made by a process comprising the following steps:

a) making a blade body possessing at least one free edge provided in a vicinity of the at least one cutting edge;

b) projecting a make-up material in the form of a powder onto the at least one free edge,

the hardness of the make-up material being greater than the hardness of the blade body;

c) subjecting the make-up material powder to a laser beam at the same time as projecting the make-up material powder so as to form a bead or strip on at least a portion of the at least one free edge,

d) performing a tempering and hardening operation on the blade body fitted with a bead or strip of the make-up material; and

e) forming the cutting edge in the bead or strip of make-up material.

11. (Currently Amended) A blade according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one cutting edge ~~(3; 103)~~ and the blade body ~~(2; 102)~~ are made of at least two different materials.

12. (Currently Amended) A cutting tool, in particular a knife, a pair of scissors, a saw, a household appliance, or ~~indeed~~ an industrial machine, ~~characterized in that it includes~~ having at least one blade ~~made according to claim 10~~ and made by a process comprising the following steps:

a) making a blade body possessing at least one free edge

provided in a vicinity of the at least one cutting edge;

b) projecting a make-up material in the form of a powder onto the at least one free edge,

the hardness of the make-up material being greater than the hardness of the blade body;

c) subjecting the make-up material powder to a laser beam at the same time as projecting the make-up material powder so as to form a bead or strip on at least a portion of the at least one free edge,

d) performing a tempering and hardening operation on the blade body fitted with a bead or strip of the make-up material;  
and

e) forming the cutting edge in the bead or strip of make-up material.